

Narcotics and Narcotic Antagonists

by Francis F Foldes MD,
Mark Swerdlow MD FFA RCS
and Ephraim S Siker MD
American Lecture Series No. 598
pp xxxviii + 425 \$11.75

Springfield, Ill.: Charles C Thomas 1964

'The primary purpose of the authors has been to present . . . the information on narcotics and narcotic antagonists that may be required by the practising anesthesiologist', and in this they have been quite successful, especially as, after presenting facts and techniques, they give their opinion of their importance and attempt to draw conclusions. This is far more useful than leaving the reader wallowing in a sea of facts as some reviews do. Opinion is valuable, always provided the facts on which it is based are presented in addition.

This book will, as the authors hope, be useful to all interested in the use of narcotics, as well as to anaesthetists. Chapter subjects include: Physiology of Pain; Pharmacology of Narcotics and Antagonists; Assessment of Analgesia; Post-operative Pain Relief; Narcotics in Obstetrics; Combination of Narcotics and Tranquilizers; Treatment of Narcotic Intoxication.

For a postgraduate text the glossary of 19 pages is redundant, if not insulting. For example, 'peristalsis: worm-like movement of the alimentary canal . . .'; 'Plasma water: the water content of blood plasma'; and 'morphine: narcotic analgesic'.

D R LAURENCE

Medical Illustration

A Guide for the Doctor-Author and Exhibitor
by William E Loechel

pp xiii + 341 illustrated \$14.50

Springfield, Ill.: Charles C Thomas 1964

This book is a comprehensive volume which deals with illustration in medicine and covers the whole field of this subject. Since the author is an artist, emphasis is placed upon the art side as against the photographic. Notwithstanding this a satisfactory balance has been struck. The contents include drawing in the theatre and specimen illustration, making the best use of a department of medical illustration, and sections on drawings, paintings, charts, graphs, exhibits and photography. It should be of value to the student and prospective illustrator as well as providing a reference volume for the medical artist as a result of the detail with which it treats many aspects.

The author clearly knows his subject and is enthusiastic. In fact the exuberance of illustration is inclined to be overdone, even in a textbook on illustration. This, together with some of the lengthy explanations, makes the book a little larger than necessary. It is extremely well pro-

duced, as one has come to expect from Charles C Thomas, although the reviewer does not personally like the text divided into columns as in a newspaper. Any prospective doctor-author, particularly if he contemplates writing a book, would be well advised to read this volume before commencing. In general a valuable book to be on the shelves of medical illustrators and to be consulted by doctor-authors.

BRYAN O SCOTT

Myxedema Coma

by Luis Leon-Sotomayor MD
and Cyril Y Bowers MD

pp xii + 91 \$5.75

Springfield, Ill.: Charles C Thomas 1964

This little book consists of a review of the published cases of myxædema coma to which the authors add 4 cases from the records of their own hospital. The survey of the literature appears to be complete, and it will therefore be a useful guide for future writers, but it is largely uncritical.

This book is no more than an essay and it would have been better if it had been shorter and more selective. It contains nothing original. There are 41 small pages of review, 15 pages of case reports, one long table and a list of references. For this tiny publication a price of over £2 is grotesque.

D A PYKE

Mammography

by Robert L Egan MD

American Lecture Series No. 568

pp xxix + 446 illustrated \$25.50

Springfield, Ill.: Charles C Thomas 1964

The part played by mammography in the diagnosis of breast diseases in this country has lagged behind advances made in the United States. The reasons for this are numerous but the relative lack of interest by radiologists as much as surgeons has contributed.

Dr Egan's book will prove an invaluable guide and reference work to radiologists aspiring to learn the technique. The chapters on technique and on the appearances of the normal breast in different physiological states are invaluable, and although the major part of this impressive volume deals with malignancy these two chapters are most important.

The different types of malignant growths of the breast are clearly described and illustrated. The work and effort undertaken in the reproduction of the illustrations in life size has been amply repaid and the clarity of these reproductions points to the success of Dr Egan's radiographic technique.

The statistical results are carefully analysed and the composite studies of a group of radiologists are analysed. The results of reproducibility study are also considered and the place of mammo-

graphy in the clinically unsuspected carcinoma of the breast is discussed.

This impressive monograph can be confidently recommended to all radiologists and surgeons interested in diseases of the breast.

ERIC SAMUEL

Manual of Surgical Anatomy

by Sir John Bruce, Robert Walmsley and James A Ross

pp vii + 562 illustrated £4 10s

Edinburgh & London: E & S Livingstone 1964

This book sets out to link anatomy and surgical practice by describing some of the more standard operations and classical disorders in relation to the regional anatomy. It is easy to read and the double-column format is both pleasant and convenient. It should form a useful reference book to clinical students and those training to become surgeons.

For the benefit of future editions, I should perhaps comment on the 'archaic' spelling of 'annular' on page 360 and also on the nomenclature used in describing sympathetic denervation of the arm which is, of course, upper thoracic and not cervical. These are minor criticisms of a book which should prove useful and justly popular.

E G TUCKWELL

The Pediatric Patient 1964

edited by Sarah R Gustafson PhD

and David Baird Coursin MD FAAP

pp 160 illustrated 35s

Philadelphia & Montreal: J B Lippincott 1964

London: Pitman Medical

This book reviews some recent contributions to paediatric literature, mainly American and British, with a useful bibliography. At times one wishes that this was done more critically, but the book will be helpful to the practising paediatrician, from the houseman reading for his DCH to the consultant.

Modestly sized, it is easily read and contains some useful diagrams although several are not alluded to in the text; this was particularly noticeable in the chapter on 'Urinary Tract Disease' which otherwise covered a complex subject helpfully. The chapter on 'Chromosomal Errors and Disease' is a useful review of recently recognized abnormalities, but a sketchy clinical description of mongolism seems unnecessary. 'Gastrointestinal Disorders' discusses the increased incidence of duodenal ulcers in children, but the reviewer found the alleged high incidence of gastric ulcers in prematures outside his experience. Ulcerative colitis is reviewed well, but 'Diarrhoea in Infants and Children' is disappointing. To mention but two points: treatment is muddled with investigations; pancreatic enzymes are the only treatment

recommended for fibrocystic disease of the pancreas. 'Mental and Emotional Problems' encompasses the knowledge of most British paediatricians, but there is a useful classification of mental subnormality and a helpful section entitled 'Outlook for the Epileptic'. 'Collagen Disorders' presents few new facts about rheumatic fever, but the present stage of knowledge about rheumatoid arthritis, quoted mostly from the British literature, is better. 'Viruses and Vaccines' and brief accounts of miscellaneous disorders make the book worthy of a place in the library.

BERNARD M LAURANCE

Occupational Therapy in Rehabilitation

edited by E M Macdonald MBE BLitt TMAOT

2nd ed pp xvi + 354 illustrated 37s 6d

London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox 1964

The new edition of this book is written by 25 senior occupational therapists under the editorship of Miss Macdonald, the pioneer in this field and Principal of Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy.

As might be expected of a collection of authors of such great experience, the technical aspects of occupational therapy both in its aims and treatment are covered most adequately, thus ensuring the value of the book as a standard textbook for occupational therapists and all others interested in this field. The authors have perhaps spread themselves rather too fully in details and the book consequently is too long and verbose for easy reading. It would be even more useful if it were shorter.

Whilst the main aspects of occupational therapy cannot be faulted, one or two of the medical conditions mentioned in the book are not accurately defined or described; e.g. on p 172 the writer states: 'Dipsomania is caused by recurrent drinking attacks in between which the patient often finds alcohol distasteful.' Nevertheless, taken all round, this book should be accepted as an invaluable reference book on occupational therapy.

BASIL KIERNANDER

Research in Deafness in Children

Proceedings of a Conference organized by the Medical Research Committee of the National Deaf Children's Society, April 6-7 1963

edited by L Fisch MD DLO

pp xiv + 103 15s

Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications 1964

Experts from a number of different fields took part in this conference and their contributions provide a useful quick introduction to many of the problems of the deaf child. There are the problems that no one has yet solved including the fundamental problem of prevention. It is suggested that in the group of cases of unknown